

Fort Hotel Sidmouth
Sunday 18 Jan 35

Dearest Rene I am horrible not to
have written long ago - I am sorry. I
was pleased to get your letter. I am most
dreadfully sorry for all the difficulties -
I do hope it will turn out alright I
do wish I had a lot of money to
give you and that you could shake your
fingers at these debts & any buyers &
print what you wanted to have you wanted
to. as who are these debts well Christ
we all know that I fancy. I did feel
you were worried when you were here
but I didn't know how much. I am
so sorry I bothered you about my miserable
look. when you were tired. It is awful
how one only thinks of one's own affairs.
It seems so long since you were here
Tom was coming but never seen to
be able to get away. he is also
very full up with much business.
I am sure the little Lobbs room it
is 10.20. & the nice parson
is reading the 'Life of Archbishop Davidson'
in the chair opposite all the rattle have
gone to bed. I've changed my room
twice since you came - went into the
big front room & found it cold &
moved into a back one last night &
then the breezy wind changed &
made that one as cold as (good) hell.
& the effin heater gave phut.

I do want a smug head to work in.²
well - why not, I should like to know?
I bet is parakee or piglets - you
are all superhumans to stand it.
There has been a huge fall of cliffs here &
the main road west to the coast has
fallen in altogether, tumbled down to the
sea so that when I do my walk
on the sand, I have to clamber over
a great huge messy red pile of
broken clay & ~~rock~~ soft rock. - it's
like abyssinia under flood.
I have had no letter for Providence
for five weeks now. I do wonder
what she is up to. whether she is in
Jerusalem or manouvering in Transjordan.
I should like to hear - so much.
Let me know what has happened and
your affairs. Give my love to Petra
I hope her baby is alright.
I sit up now until midnight
talking to this High Church parson
from Staffordshire - he is nice
but doesn't half think our kind
of Fitz Chaps are a pretty lot of
scum. - we crack on sometimes
or each other like anything -
you honest half laugh. if you
hear us I bet - fair get
done to it sometimes.

Sunday near to part this yesterday -
wonder how you. * Notes to report.

I hear the King is jolly ill.
There is a bloke in the hotel whose job
it is to lecture on Gas defense. - he
& his wife use that little room I was
in when you came down. for a kind of office
I "droh in" as he would say & have
a drink sometimes & he tells me about
the pleasantness of the entire contrivance.
He used to occupy a dugout on the canal
where. the sergeant used to put on his
tin-hat like a bucket & go & see his
brother that I told you about. - so we
do old soldier stuff as well. I've got
a sore throat & feel generally distracted.
These bloody old women are sending
their nasty adams apples up & down
like anything in this lounge.

There was a tangle of battle between the
two swans in the river mouth & the
sea gulls the other ^{day} for bits of fish.
The swans were like two dreadnoughts -
surrounded by destroyers. - If the
gulls had only made a proper concerted
attack that would have won easily
as it was they made a poor show.
I thought it would have been good
if some ~~poor~~ crazy cats had come

out of the wood on the cliff I joined 4
in it then if some dogs for the promenade
had come padding down on top of them
it would have been a great battle.
Much of this Ball. I rather liked that
hill of boxes, packing-cases, Denis drew
for this week's Catholic Herald. I did it
like the men in the picture as I liked
the boxes. Have you done any Roland.
You go out to have a net before lunch.
Just come back for Mass. I've bought
some new pyjamas & some new drawers.
made of fine linen. I know your shirt
fits you alright. ~~the~~ the good bike I
sent my father for Xmas has got lost in post -
bugger. There is a nice ~~weather~~ ~~day~~ day
in the hearting. a little bit like this but
not much.

Good be dearest
Joan
Love
David.

